

WE CLAIM;

1. A method for process handling of an image-only file in a PDF data stream which is en route to a printer comprising

querying such a PDF data stream to detect the presence therein of any such  
5 image-only file, and

on detecting the presence of such a file, and with respect to the data in that file, directing that data to a dedicated, PDF image-only pipeline processing path.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said directing includes specifically  
10 directing the detected image-only block of PDF data to a path which includes processing steps involving image decoding, and downstream from image decoding, rendering for printing.

3. Apparatus for handling and image-only file in a PDF data stream which is  
15 en route to a printer comprising

querying structure for querying a PDF data stream to detect therein the presence of any image-only block of PDF data, and

operatively connected to said querying structure, and downstream therefrom, processing structure which is dedicated to PDF image-only data processing.

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4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said downstream structure includes image decoding structure, and downstream from said image decoding structure, render for printing structure.